

Identifying and Controlling Permit-Required Confined Spaces

WAC 296-809-200

Summary

YOUR RESPONSIBILITY:

To identify your permit-required confined spaces and control employee entry

You must

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Inform employees and control entry to permit-required confined spaces WAC 296-809-20004	200-4
Follow these requirements when you contract with another employer to enter your confined space WAC 296-809-20006	200-5



Identifying and Controlling Permit-Required Confined Spaces

WAC 296-809-200

Rule

WAC 296-809-20002

Identify permit-required confined spaces

IMPORTANT:

- If your workplace contains only non-permit confined spaces and your employees don't enter another employer's confined space, you may follow only the requirements in:
 - WAC 296-809-200, Identifying and Controlling Permit-required Confined Spaces
 - and**
 - WAC 296-809-700, Non-permit Confined Space Requirements.
- See the Resources section for other chapters covering confined spaces that may apply to your work.

You must

- Identify all permit-required confined spaces in your workplace.
- Assume any confined space is a permit-required confined space, unless you determine the space to be a non-permit confined space.
 - If you enter the space to determine the hazards, follow the requirements in WAC 296-809-500, Permit Entry Procedures.
 - If you evaluate the confined space and there are no potential or actual hazards, you can consider it to be a non-permit confined space.
- Document your determination that the space is non-permit, as required by WAC 296-809-700.

– Continued–



Identifying and Controlling Permit-Required Confined Spaces

WAC 296-809-200

Rule

WAC 296-809-20002 (Continued)



Definitions:

A **permit-required confined space or permit space** is a confined space that has one or more of the following characteristics capable of causing death or serious physical harm:

- Contains or has a potential to contain a hazardous atmosphere.
 - Contains a material with the potential for engulfing someone who enters the space.
 - Has an internal configuration that could allow someone entering to be trapped or asphyxiated by inwardly converging walls or by a floor, which slopes downward and tapers to a smaller cross-section.
 - Contains any physical hazard. This includes any recognized health or safety hazards including engulfment in solid or liquid material, electrical shock, or moving parts.
 - Contains any other recognized safety or health hazard that could either:
 - Impair the ability to self rescue
- or**
- - Result in a situation that presents an immediate danger to life or health.

A **non-permit confined space** is a confined space that does **not** contain actual hazards or potential hazards capable of causing death or serious physical harm.



Identifying and Controlling Permit-Required Confined Spaces

WAC 296-809-200

Rule

WAC 296-809-20004

Inform employees and control entry to permit-required confined spaces

You must

(1) Provide information about confined spaces as follows:

- Make available to affected employees and their authorized representatives all information and documents required by this chapter.
- Inform affected employees about the existence, location, and danger of any permit-required confined spaces in your workplace by:
 - Posting danger signs
 - or**
 - Using any other equally effective means to inform employees.



Note:

A sign reading "DANGER-PERMIT REQUIRED CONFINED SPACE, DO NOT ENTER" or using pictures or other similar wording employees can understand, would satisfy the requirement for a sign.

You must

(2) Take effective measures to prevent unauthorized employees from entering permit-required confined spaces.



Note:

Examples of measures to prevent employee entry include padlocks, bolted covers, special tools to remove covers, and providing employee training.



Identifying and Controlling Permit-Required Confined Spaces

WAC 296-809-200

Rule

WAC 296-809-20006

Follow these requirements when you contract with another employer to enter your confined space

IMPORTANT:

The contractor is responsible for following all confined space requirements in this chapter and in other rules that apply. For a list of other rules that may apply, see the Resources section of this chapter.

You must

- Do **all** of the following if you arrange to have another employer (contractor) perform work that involves entry into your permit-required confined space:
 - Inform the contractor:
 - That the workplace contains permit-required confined spaces and entry is allowed only if the applicable requirements of this chapter are met
 - Of the identified hazards and your experience with each permit-required confined space
 - Of any precautions or procedures you require for the protection of employees in or near spaces where the contractor will be working
 - Coordinate entry operations with the contractor, when either employees or employers from the different companies will be working in or near permit-required confined spaces.
 - Discuss entry operations with the contractor when they are complete. Include the following in your discussion:
 - The program followed during confined space entry
 - and**
 - Any hazards confronted or created.

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